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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WALTHAM HOLY CROSS



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
including the Report of the  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
for the year ending December 31st., 1971



WALTHAM HOLY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1971

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Mrs. J. W. Hewins

Dep. Chairman: Councillor S. D. Riley  
Councillor D. W. Berry  
Councillor Mrs. M. Bird  
Councillor K. W. Meekin  
Councillor H. S. Smith  
Councillor Mrs. J. A. Taylor

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL Councillor C. E. Hewins

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. L. Mitchell. M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., (up to 14th February, 1971)  
47 Tycehurst Hill,  
Loughton, Essex.

Dr. A. Afnan L.A.H., D.P.H., M.D., D.L.O. (appointed 15th February 1971)  
6 Highbridge Street,  
Waltham Abbey. Essex.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. P. W. Riley. M.A.P.H.I. (Up to 10th May, 1971)  
(1,2,4)

Mr. G. Blakey. D.M.A., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Appointed 12th July 1972)  
(1,2,4,7)

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. R. M. Cookson, M.A.P.H.I. (6)

MEAT INSPECTORS

Mr. E. Salway A.M.R.S.H., M.A.M.I. (3)  
Mr. J. Fleming M.M.I.A., M.A.M.I. (5)  
Mr. H. Benyon A.M.R.S.H., M.A.M.I. (3)

- 1) Certificate of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board
- 2) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health of Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
- 3) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health of Inspector of Meat
- 4) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for Smoke Inspection
- 5) Royal Sanitary Association (Scotland) Certificate of Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.



- 6) Diploma of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board
- 7) Diploma in Municipal Administration

CLERK Miss D. Elsom

PART TIME CLERK Vacant

RODENT OPERATIVE Mr. T. S. Driver

To the Chairman and Members of the Waltham Holy Cross  
Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second annual report on the Health Services of the district, for the year 1971/72.

The mid-year estimate of population was 14,470. During the year there were 283 live births and 107 deaths. The adjusted birth rate and the adjusted death rate is 16.3 and 10.7 respectively.

An outbreak of influenza began in mid-December 1971 in the Country. Judging by the figures for weekly new claims for sickness absence made to the Social Security Department, the information obtained by the Royal College of General Practitioners and the demand on the Bed Services in London, the incidence was less severe than two years ago. An Influenza outbreak always produces an increase in deaths attributed to bronchitis and pneumonia.

Vaccination against Measles has now been in progress for four years. The number of notifications and deaths has been substantially lower in this period. The biennial winter epidemics no longer occur. Although notification of measles are fewer in number, there are still some 2,000-3,000 notifications a week in the Country. Clearly a great deal of measles could still be prevented.

A characteristic of virtually every early civilization was the discovery of alcohol. Initially it was used on ceremonial occasions. Its ability to abolish self consciousness was greatly valued and it became more widely used. Although it supplies an antidote to boredom and provides some temporary relief for those with chronic pain, it clouds the judgement and self control and impairs the skill, and becomes a social problem. Furthermore, it develops dependance on alcohol with all its personal, social and economical problems.

In the U.K. about £2,000 millions per year is spent on the alcohol in drinks, £900 millions is tax revenue from these drinks and £20 million is laid out on advertising alcoholic drinks. The liquor consumption is climbing.

About 7,000 alcoholics each year are admitted to hospitals, some to its 14 specialised alcoholics treatment units. Over 80,000 arrests are



made each year for public drunkenness, and it is estimated that over 40% of the prison population and 60% of vagrants have a serious drinking problem. In 1971 the suicide rate among a sample of alcoholics was 75% higher than national average. The amount that is spent on educating the public as to the nature of safe and dangerous drinking is vestigial, and there appears to be only scant concern directed towards prevention of alcoholic casualty.

According to the statement by the Minister of Transport, one in five of all car drivers and motor cyclists killed on the roads would be still alive if they had not been drinking. When the Nation is afflicted by assiduous advertising of drinks, it is no surprise that many young people become addicted to drinks.

A stone slab on the vicarage wall at Kindford, under the headline "The Degredation of Drunkenness" bears this grim warning.

"There is no sin which doth more deface God's image than drunkenness, it disguiseth a person and doth even unman him. Drunkenness makes him have the throat of a fish, the belly of a swine, and the head of an ass. Drunkenness is the shame of nature, the extinguisher of reason, the shipwreck of Chastity and the murderer of conscience. Drunkenness is hurtful to the body. The cup kills more than the cannon, it causes dropsies, cattarhs, apoplexies, it fills the eye with fire and the legs with water and turns the body into a hospital."

In 1968 more children died in fires alone than people were murdered, yet just one intensive and prolonged murder hunt probably costs more than the amount spent annually on teaching parents about fire risks and preventions.

Deaths in England and Wales, due to accidental poisoning by drugs are rising. Every week one person dies from accidental poisoning by Aspirin and every day someone dies accidentally from barbiturate poisoning. Very often it is seen that drinks and drugs are kept in one place, sleeping tablets being left on bedside tables, bleaches and cleaners are often stored under the kitchen sink where they are easily accessible to children, and unused medicine and drugs are often stored in unlocked drawers.

Self-medication without medical advice is also deep-rooted in many people, there are dangers from side effects of drugs, over dosing and



delay of correct medical treatment by people who diagnose their own ailments and ask for medicine over the chemist's counter.

Drug dependence is a state arising from taking a narcotic drug on a continuous basis and a person who develops drug dependence, is unable to stop taking drugs without mental and physical symptoms.

A person may depend upon the presence of the drugs:

- 1) For normal functioning of the body, e.g. diabetes.
- 2) To provide enjoyment or to suppress his mental and emotional difficulties.
- 3) Through the desire to follow a trend in fashion and to conform to the behaviour and standards of his particular community.

The problem lies not in the "drug" but in the "Taker". A normal and healthy body does not need drugs. In the case of illness, benefits derived from the correct drug used in the correct way is immeasurable, and its administration is left to qualified Doctors only.

It is said that these factors combine to make people dependent on drugs, a personality weakness, crisis and the availability of drugs.

Today many young people are sufficiently affluent and independent, and take pep pills to keep them active and awake into the night in order to make the most of their outings. These all-night parties which are known as "raves" are a continual source of anxiety to those concerned with the welfare of young people.

I think stricter control of the manufacturers, distribution and prescribing of drugs, greater police vigilance, prosecution of drug pushers, more effective legislation and mobilisation of public opinion, particularly young opinion, against drug taking, are some recommended measures.

Attention is drawn to the considerable danger of Brucellosis. Any milk which has not been pasteurised, sterilised or boiled, if contaminated is a dangerous vehicle. Estimates put the industries' loss because of Brucellosis at over £1 million annually. In an unprotected dairy herd, an outbreak of

Emacellosis can be a serious financial loss and in some cases lead to its break-up. No farmer can, or should, face this sort of risk.

The best method of protection is to vaccinate all female cattle during calfhood and so build up a herd well protected against the disease. This is a service which costs nothing.

May I, in conclusion, express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and support during the year, and to the Public Health Inspectors and the Clerical Staff for their valuable assistance and co-operation.

A. Afnan

Medical Officer of Health



VITAL STATISTICS - 1971  
WALTHAM HOLY CROSS U.D.C.

		Local Authority Area			England and Wales (Total)		Local Authority area	England and Wales
		Males	Females	Total				
Estimated mid-year home population		-	-	14,470	48,815,000			
Live Births	Total	146	137	283	783,165	Live birth rates, etc.		
	Legitimate	144	130	274	717,491	Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	19.6	16.00
	Illegitimate	2	7	9	65,674	Area comparability factor	.83	1.00
						Local adjusted rate	16.3	16.00
						Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.02	1.00
						Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	3	8
Stillbirths	Total	1	1	2	9,898	Stillbirth rate total		
	Legitimate	1	1	2	8,826	Stillbirths per 1,000/live and still births	7	12
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,072			
Total live and stillbirths	Total	147	138	285	793,063			
	Legitimate	145	131	276	726,317			
	Illegitimate	2	7	9	66,746			
Deaths of infants						Infant mortality rates		
Under 1 year of age	Total	5	1	6	13,726	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	21	18
	Legitimate	5	1	6	12,140	Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year/1,000 leg.live births	22	17
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,586	Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year/1,000 illeg.live births	-	24
Under 4 weeks of age	Total	5	1	6	9,113	Neonatal mortality rate		
	Legitimate	5	1	6	8,121	Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	21	12
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	992			
Under 1 week of age	Total	4	1	5	7,750	Early neonatal mortality rate		
	Legitimate	4	1	5	6,903	Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	18	10
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	847	Perinatal mortality rate		
						Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	25	22
Deaths - all ages		61	46	107	567,345	Deaths rates, etc. - all ages		
						Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	7.4	11.6
						Area comparability factor	1.44	1.00
						Local adjusted rate	10.7	11.6
						Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	.92	1.00

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CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL  
FOR THE YEAR 1971

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	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	3	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	3	-	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	3	7
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Anaemias	-	2	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	3	-	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	3	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	19	9	28
Other forms of Heart Disease	3	3	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	8	11
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	2	5
Pneumonia	1	6	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	1	3
Other Disease of Digestive System	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	2	-	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other Accidents	1	-	1
All other External Causes	1	-	1
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Total	61	46	107
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## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

All personal Health Services for the Waltham Holy Cross Urban District are administered on an area basis and come within the West Essex Health Area. The Area Health Office is situated at Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow. (Tel. Harlow 25331) and all correspondence should be addressed to the Area Medical Officer.

### Health Visiting/School Nursing Service

At the end of the year the two Health Visitors serving the District were Mrs. J. Haynes and Miss I Seiberle. The Health Visitors are based at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, The Cedars, Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey (Tel. Waltham Cross 22830) and can usually be contacted there each morning between 9 and 10 a.m. If the Health Visitor is not available messages can be left with one of the Clerical Assistants. Health Visitors at this clinic are assisted in their duties by a part-time state registered nurse.

The Health Visitor who is a trained nurse visits persons in their homes and advise in the clinic as to the care of young children - persons suffering from illness - expectant and nursing mothers, the elderly, and as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection and other duties as may be assigned to her.

In the School Health Service the Health Visitor acts as school nurse and is the principal link between the home, the school, the family doctor and other agencies, particularly on matters relating to the health of a child at school.

### District Nurse and Midwifery

The Nursing Staff carrying out these services and resident in the area are:

Miss E. E. Bullock, District Nurse/Midwife  
23 Farmhill Road, Waltham Abbey

Tel. WX 22917

Miss B. F. Dyke, District Nurse/Midwife  
6a Fountain Place, Waltham Abbey

Tel. WX 33666

Miss D. Durell, District Nurse/Midwife  
22 Buxton Road, Upshire Waltham Abbey.

Tel. WX 22421

The following services are provided by the County Council at the Clinic at Sewardstone Road.



Chiropody

Three sessions a week for the elderly and physically handicapped.

A domiciliary service is also provided for patients who are housebound and unable to reach the clinic.

Cervical Cytology

Sessions are arranged according to the demand. There is no waiting list.

Dental Service

This service is mainly for schoolchildren. The Dental Officer periodically visits the schools in the district to carry out dental inspections.

Schoolchildren's Clinic

A school Medical Officer is in attendance at regular intervals and appointments can be arranged on application to the clinic, Head Teacher or Area Office.

Child Health Clinic

These sessions are very well attended. At the present time three sessions a week are being held with a Medical Officer and Health Visitor in attendance. Vaccinations and immunisations are also carried out at these sessions.

School Health Service

The selective system of medical inspection of pupils continued unchanged and during the year 509 pupils in attendance at schools in the District were examined by the Medical Officers of the Local Education Authority.

As in previous years, B.C.G. vaccination was offered to pupils aged 12 years and 102 were vaccinated.

Vaccination against rubella was offered to girls in the 11-14 years age group.

ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante Natal	1,133
Post Natal	Nil

ATTENDANCES AT CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Infants under 1 year	}	5,476
Children 1-5 years		

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Dysentery	1	-	-
Measles	23	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-

Tuberculosis

4 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Diphtheria

No cases were reported during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes

1) Smallpox

86 primary vaccinations were performed and 7 persons were re-vaccinated.

2) D.P.T. (Triple vaccine against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)

359 primary immunisations and 77 boosting doses were given.

3) Diphtheria/Tetanus

33 primary immunisations, 260 boosting doses were given.

4) Tetanus

7 immunisations and 41 boosting doses were given during the year.

5) Poliomyelitis Vaccinations

Oral Vaccine

Immunising Course of 3 doses 318

Fourth (boosting) dose 255

6) Measles Vaccinations

197 primary vaccinations were performed

7) Rubella

100 vaccinations were performed.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Scarlet Fever	9	5	1	5	2
Dysentery	3	3	2	2	1
Measles	419	7	57	178	23
Whooping Cough	2	2	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	13	3	-	5
T.B. Respiratory	3	2	1	1	1
Others	1	-	1	-	3
Food Poisoning	1	1	3	-	-

VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS

	<u>1st Visits</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
up to 5 years	846	2,555

CASES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES

Number of cases attended	86
Visits made by Home Nurses	3,653

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my first annual report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department.

Due to staff sickness and the former Chief Public Health Inspector leaving in May and I taking up my appointment in August, the activities of the Department were severely restricted. Nevertheless it says much for the industry and loyalty of the staff that the statutory obligations placed on the Department were able to be fulfilled.

Work within the Department increased in respect of meat inspection despite the fact that the slaughterhouse in Sun Street was compulsorily closed down in December, due to the premises not complying with the provisions of the Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations etc.

Survey work also commenced on the proposed General Improvement Area in Woollard Street and the Nos. 5 and 6 Smoke Control Areas, all of which it is hoped to bring into operation in 1972/73.

Numerous complaints in connection with the dumping in the Galley Hill area of sewage sludge originating from the G.L.C. sewage disposal works, were received. Whilst one must accept that this material must be disposed of, it is a great pity that the G.L.C. do not appear to accept the need to exercise greater control over their contractors in the manner by which this material is disposed of. This matter is still being investigated.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the co-operation and support of all Officers in this and other Departments, in enabling me to carry out my duties.

G. Blakey. D.M.A., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
Chief Public Health Inspector



SECTION 1 - INSPECTION OF THE AREA - STATISTICS

Inspection of the Area

A general duty is placed upon the Council to ensure their District is inspected from time to time in relation to environmental health functions. Inspections made by the Officers of the Department resulted in 2,469 visits. 290 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received and dealt with.

Summary of Inspections

Housing (See Section II)

House inspections (Public Health Acts.) defects	26
" " (Housing Acts) defects	32
" " (Rent Act) "	-
" " (Qualification Certificates)	47
" " (Overcrowding)	9
" " (Multiple occupation)	6
" " (Improvement grants)	29
" " (Improvement Area)	<u>44</u>
	<u>193</u>

Food & Drugs Act (See Section III)

Bakeries	9
Butchers	10
Cafes & Restaurants	14
Confectioners	22
Chemists	-
Dairies	10
Fishmongers	4
Food Hawkers	17
Food Factories	4
General Market	24
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	9
Grocery & Provisions	31
Hospitals	-

Food & Drugs Act (cont)

Imported Food	7
Investigation of Food Complaints	26
Licenced Premises	27
Schools	11
Slaughterhouses	1,166
Wholesalers	8

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1,399

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Sampling

Milk	3
Ice Cream	3

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Water Supply (See Section IV)

Samples - mains	9
Samples - swimming pools	1
Inspections - swimming pools	3

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13

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Atmospheric Pollution (See Section Va)

Smoke Control Areas	23
Smoke Nuisances - Industrial	33
Domestic	4
Smoke Observation	

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Infectious Diseases (See Section IX)

Routine investigations	12
Samples	1
Miscellaneous	1

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<u>Offices Shops &amp; Railway Premises Act (See Section VIIa)</u>	
General Inspection	31
Routine Inspection	30
Accident Investigation	1
	<hr/> 62 <hr/>
<u>Animal Health (See Section VIII)</u>	
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	15
Pet Animals Act	9
Disease of Animals Waste Food Orders	4
	<hr/> 28 <hr/>
<u>Factories Act (See Section VIIb)</u>	
Factories	24
Outworkers	6
	<hr/> 30 <hr/>
<u>Petroleum Consolidation Act (See Section IXa)</u>	<hr/> 45 <hr/>
<u>Caravan Sites &amp; Control of Development Act</u> (See Section IIb)	<hr/> 49 <hr/>
<u>Noise Abatement Act (See Section Vb)</u>	<hr/> 31 <hr/>
<u>Agricultural Safety Health &amp; Welfare Provisions Act</u> (See Section VIIc)	<hr/> 38 <hr/>
<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949</u> (See Section VIa)	252
<u>Public Health Acts (See Section IXb)</u>	
Drainage defects	63
Accumulation	32
Smell Nuisances	45
Ditches and Ponds	10
Stables and Piggeries	14
Filthy or Verminous Premises	13
Cattle Market	15
Hairdressers	4
Scrap Metal Dealers	1
Miscellaneous	35
	<hr/> 232 <hr/>
GRAND TOTAL - 2,469	

## SECTION II - HOUSING

The total number of Council houses at 31st December, was 1,467 which are made up as follows:

Bed/sitting bungalows	24
1 bedroom bungalows	53
1 bedroom flats	177
2 bedroom flats/maisonettes	163
3 bedroom flats/maisonettes	20
2 bedroom houses	379
3 bedroom houses	614
4 bedroom houses	34
5 bedroom houses	3
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	1,467
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The number of applicants rehoused from the housing list was 44, which included 1 applicant from an unfit dwelling and 5 applicants on medical grounds. The total number of applicants on the housing waiting list as at 31st December 1971, was 384.

### Improvement of Houses

- i) Standard Grants These grants are given as a matter of right (except in General Improvement Areas). Half the approved expenditure up to £200 can be obtained by owners of houses, towards the cost of works required to improve an existing dwelling, by the provision of basic standard amenities, i.e. a bath, wash-hand basin, sink, hot and cold water supply and the provision of an internal water closet. Three such grants were given during the year amounting to a total of £547.50.
- ii) Improvement Grants These grants are made available at the discretion of the Council, towards the cost of works required for either the provision of dwellings (e.g. the conversion of flats or houses or other buildings), or for the improvement of existing dwellings other than by the mere provision of basic amenities. This means that where a dwelling lacks amenities and is in need of other repairs or improvements, a grant can be given. The maximum grant available is half the approved expenditure up to £1,000. The dwelling, upon completion of works, should, other



than in exceptional circumstances, have a minimum life of 30 years. Once improved the dwelling, broadly speaking, should be up to post war standard of property.

The number of properties improved during the year was 17, amounting to a total of £6,937.75 being given in grant aid.

It is estimated that there are within the area, some 500 houses lacking one or more basic amenities. On the basis of the present rate of improvement it will take some 25 years for all dwellings in the area to be improved. It would seem therefore, that greater emphasis should be placed on the improvement of houses within the area.

#### Proposed Improvement Area

There are few houses entirely without some unsatisfactory houses and fewer still which are without any dwellings that cause concern for the future, and Waltham Abbey is no exception.

Resources are scarce and redevelopment of housing areas is both socially disruptive and financially expensive both to individuals and the ratepayers as a whole. It is therefore, important to improve and preserve now, as many of the older houses within the area, rather than to delay acting until later, when the social disruption and financial costs will undoubtedly be much higher.

Part II of the Housing Act 1969 empowers Local Authorities to declare suitable areas as "General Improvement Areas", the principle being to improve the quality of the area by carrying out Environmental improvement works such as tree planting, provision of play spaces, grassed and paved areas, parking facilities, converting carriageways into footpaths and repairing or renewing fences etc.

During the year a preliminary survey was carried out on the Greenfield St/Woollard St. area with the view to eventually declaring the area to be a General Improvement Area.

By the incentive of higher improvement grants and by declaring suitable areas



as General Improvement Areas it is hoped in some small way to improve the environment in which people live.

### Qualification Certificates

The Housing Act 1969 enables rents to be regulated in certain dwellings or improved. Landlords may apply to the Council for the issue of a Qualification Certificate to enable them to apply to the Rent Officer for the tenancy to be converted to a regulated tenancy and for a fair rent to be determined. In addition the Council may issue a Provisional Qualification Certificate when they are satisfied that the proposed improvements will bring the property up to the required standard.

During the year the following applications were received and approved:

	<u>Qualification Certificates</u>	<u>Provisional Qualification Certificates</u>
Applications received	6	3
Applications granted	9	4
Applications refused	Nil	Nil

### Houses unfit for Human Habitation

During the year it was necessary to replace a Closing Order on a property which was considered unfit. The Tenant was rehoused by the Council.

### Moveable Dwellings - Licenced Sites

There are 12 licenced sites comprising 6 individual, 5 multiple and 1 holiday. These accommodate some 574 moveable dwellings. The conditions approved by the Council are above the Ministry Model Standards. It is envisaged that eventually all residential caravans will be provided internally, with all basic amenities, together with an adequate drainage system and mains electricity. 49 visits and inspections were carried out resulting in 3 informal notices being served on licenced owners regarding breach of licence conditions.



### SECTION III - FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955

Food premises in the area are listed below, together with the number of inspections carried out.

	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Notices Served</u>
Wholesalers	1	8	--
Slaughterhouses	3	66	6
Food Factories	1	4	-
Schools	6	11	1
Licenced Premises	33	27	-
Hospitals	2	-	-
Grocery & Provisions	35	31	5
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	8	9	-
General Market Stalls	2	24	2
Mobile Stalls	2	17	3
Fishmongers (wet and fried)	3	4	1
Dairies	3	10	-
Chemists	2	-	-
Confectioners	9	22	-
Canteen, Cafes and Restaurants	10	14	4
Butchers	7	10	1
Bakers	1	9	1

#### Registration of Premises

Premises registered for the manufacture or sale of preserved foods	9
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	41
Itinerants registered for the sale of ice cream	13
Itinerants registered for the sale of other food	9

#### Educational Activity

Educational activities took the form of visits to food premises and discussions with food handlers.

During the year publicity was focussed on manufacturers' methods of date coding on perishable food-stuffs. The Association of Public Health Inspectors has pressed for date coding to be introduced, and it is to be hoped that the Food Standards Committee which is at present looking into this question, will take the Association's views into consideration.



### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

It was not possible to carry out as many visits and inspections of food premises as one would have wished, due to sickness and shortage of staff. It is hoped that greater emphasis can be placed on this important duty within the next year.

### Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was closed due to the continued deterioration of the premises and the owner not being willing to spend money on bringing the premises up to the required standard as prescribed under the Slaughterhouse Hygiene (General) Regulations 1955. There remains two slaughterhouses operating in the district in which three full time Meat Inspectors are employed.

The number of animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption, increased yet again, reaching a total of 118,103 animals compared with 106,258 in the previous year.

In 1971 amending legislation was passed increasing the charges for the inspection of meat. Unfortunately, it is envisaged that even with these increased charges the total cost of ensuring that all meat which is passed for human consumption, will still not be recoverable from the slaughterhouses, but will have to be supplemented from the general rate fund.

All carcasses were inspected and although some 46 were wholly condemned together with some 61 tons of meat and offal, the quality of animals slaughtered remains quite high. The closing of one of the slaughterhouses has meant that more time is available for the meat inspection staff to ensure that all meat is inspected satisfactorily. If all three slaughterhouses had continued to operate and expand, it may well have been necessary to employ additional staff to ensure that this service was maintained.



Meat Inspection - 1971

Carcases Inspected and Condemned	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	22,290	1,549	2,927	50,611	40,726	1
Number not inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----						
<u>All diseases except T.B. and C.B.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	5	14	17	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10,173	139	35	5,827	2,739	-
-----						
<u>T.B. only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	43	-
-----						
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	5	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Unsound Food Surrendered or condemned

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>lbs</u>
Meat at Slaughterhouses	60	19	50
Meat at retail premises	-	-	-
Canned Meats		6	88
Fruit and Vegetables (fresh)	-	-	-
Frozen Foods		2	29
Other Foods	-	-	-
-----			
Total	61	8	55
-----			

Imported Foods Regulations 1968

These Regulations lay down conditions which have to be complied with when food is imported into England and Wales.

Food to which these Regulations apply is now being imported into the District. The Regulations require that the food shall be in sealed containers and shall not be opened until it reaches its place of destination and that the food shall be fit for human consumption.

Containers usually arrive in the early hours of the morning or late evening. Notification that imported food is to arrive in the District is received from the importing authority. However, as the importing authority is only aware of the time of despatch to the inland authority, it is very difficult to determine when food will arrive, consequently one has to rely on the food processor to notify the Public Health Department when the food has arrived. As the majority of this imported food is meat which is perishable, it has meant that Inspectors have to be on call to ensure that the meat can be inspected; Inspectors often have to turn out in the early mornings or late evenings.

No. of containers	Type of Imported Food	Quantity	Consignee
50	Quarters of beef	587,349 lbs	City Meats Sewardstone Road
)	Sterilised Cream	3,015 "	Adams Butter
2)			)
)	Evaporated Milk	1,664 "	) Sewardstone Road
52	-	592,028 lbs	-



Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

These Regulations make provision for the hygienic construction, equipment and cleansing of premises where milk is processed, produced, handled or stored. There are two such premises within the district. The Medical Officer of Health had to serve notice on one of these dealers to pasteurise his raw milk which was found upon routine sampling, to give a Brucella positive (ring test) culture, which can give rise to Undulant fever in man.

Consequently the dealer in question decided to instal a pasteurisation plant, the milk is now subjected to heat treatment which destroys Brucella organisms. Further samples of this milk have proved satisfactory.

Milk Sampling

92 samples of milk including 21 of raw milk were obtained within the District for examination. Details are given below:

<u>Examination</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Brucellosis	15	1
Tuberculosis	2	-
Antibiotics	14	1
Phosphatase Test (Adequate heat treatment)	52	-
Methylene Blue Test (Keeping quality)	66	2
U.H.T. Test (Adequate heat treatment)	5	-
Turbidity Test (Adequate heat treatment)	2	-

#### SECTION IV - WATER

Under the Provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 as amended by the Water Act 1945, local authorities have a duty to ensure that all parts of their district are supplied with wholesome water.

During the year 9 samples were taken for bacteriological examination by the Department. All were found to be satisfactory.

There are within the district 4,479 dwellings of which 4,450 are supplied from public water mains.

Of the 29 dwellings on private supplies, samples are taken to ensure that these remain satisfactory.

The Metropolitan Water Board supply the major part of the district and have reported on their supplies as follows:

- "1) a) The supply was satisfactory both as to (i) quality, and (ii) quantity throughout 1971.
  - b) All new and repaired mains are disinfected with chlorine; after a predetermined period of contact the pipes are flushed out and refilled; samples of water are then collected from these treated mains; and the mains are returned to service only after the analytical results are found to be satisfactory. The quality control from these laboratories is carried out by means of daily sampling from sources of supply, from the treatment works or well stations, from the distribution system, and through to the consumer. Any sign of contamination or any other abnormality is immediately investigated.
  - c) No houses were permanently supplied by standpipe.
  - d) No artificial fluoride is being added, and where the fluoride content is indicated in the analyses it represents the naturally occurring fluoride in the water.
- 2) a) The supply was derived from the following works and pumping stations:
- River Thames water from the Thames Valley group
  - Well water from Waltham Abbey Pumping Station
  - The supply to the Wake Arms area is from Lee Bridge Works
- No new sources of supply were instituted and there were no changes to the general scheme of supply in your area. The number of samples collected and the bacteriological and chemical analyses of the supply



from the above sources after treatment are shown on the attached sheets.

- b) On account of their hardness content and alkaline reaction the Board's river and well water supplies are shown to be not plumbo-solvent. It should, however, be appreciated that all types of water pick up varying amounts of metal from the material of water piping, particularly when it is newly installed; this applies to copper, zinc, iron and also to lead."

SEE TABLES ATTACHED

#### Swimming Pools

Routine bacteriological checks and inspections were made of the Public Swimming Pool situated at Roundhills and Warlies Private Swimming Pool. Complaints were received in relation to the incidence of veruca, particularly among children using the Council's pool. As a result of these complaints action was taken to prevent as far as possible, any further spread of the infection within the pool.





METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - Water Examination Department

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS - YEARLY AVERAGES 1971

of water supplied to the Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council

Source of Supply	BEFORE TREATMENT							AFTER TREATMENT				
	Number of Samples	Agar plate Count per ml.		Coliform count		Escherichia coli count		Number of Samples	Agar plate Count per ml.		Coliform count.	E.coli count
		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml	Count per 100 ml	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml	Count per 100 ml		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml
Lee Bridge	2698	59.7		35.29	11.3	59.30	2.1	278	27.4		99.64	100.0
River Thames-derived	8154	53.9		40.37	12.2	54.91	5.1	3901	8.4		99.51	99.97
Waltham Abbey	251	0.2	9	99.20	0.1	100.0	-	254	0.8	17	99.61	100.0





METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - WATER EXAMINATION DEPARTMENT

Average Results of the Chemical Examination of the water supplied to the  
Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council during 1971

	Description of the Sample		
	Waltham Abbey	Lee Bridge	R. Thames Derived
Number of samples	4	52	364
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.190	0.014	0.029
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.040	0.096	0.084
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.2	6.7	6.1
Oxygen abs. from $\text{KMnO}_4$ , 4 hrs. @ $27^\circ\text{C}$	0.33	1.14	1.04
Hardness (total) $\text{CaCO}_3$	273	297	281
Hardness (non carbonate) $\text{CaCO}_3$	66	99	90
Magnesium as Mg		6	5
Sodium as Na		31.0	23.5
Potassium as K		6.4	5.1
Chloride as Cl	27	39	34
Phosphate as $\text{PO}_4$		3.2	2.3
Silicate as $\text{SiO}_2$		10	10
Sulphate as $\text{SO}_4$		78	64
Natural Fluoride as F	0.65	0.20	0.15
Surface-active material as Manoxol OT		0.03	0.02
Turbidity Units	0.2	0.2	0.1
Colour (Burgess units)	6	15	13
pH value	7.4	7.9	7.8
Electrical Conductivity (micromhos)	550	620	580



## SECTION V - ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### Domestic

Since the inception of the Clean Air Act 1956, most local authorities, including Waltham Abbey, have established Smoke Control Areas. To date Waltham Abbey have four Smoke Control Orders in operation, covering a total area of 299 acres and 930 premises.

In July 1970, due to the shortage of solid smokeless fuel caused mainly by changes in technology in the gas industry, with the advent of North Sea Gas, confirmation of further smoke control orders were suspended by the Ministry. In August 1971 the Department of the Environment issued Circular 55/71 stating that given all but an exceptional winter, supplies of solid smokeless fuel should be available to meet consumer demand. Acting on this basis a revised smoke control programme was prepared. Smoke Control Areas 5 and 6 covering some 450 premises and 116 acres, were approved by the Secretary of State and shall become operative in July 1973. Smoke Control Area No. 6 will include the proposed Greenfield St./Woollard St. General Improvement Area. In adopting this procedure, time should be saved by enabling premises to be inspected both for improvement grant and clean air conversion purposes.

No doubt residents who wish to improve their properties with the aid of an improvement grant, will be pleased to be able to obtain a grant towards the cost of fitting a modern smokeless heating appliance at the same time.

### Industrial

Complaints were received from residents in connection with a wood waste incinerator and odours from a chemical plant within the area. It is envisaged that remedial action, to abate the pollution caused by these processes, will cost the respective owners several thousands of pounds. However, it is hoped that remedial measures will be completed by 1972.

In connection with the problem regarding odour complaints, it is interesting to note that the Government have set up a working party to look into all odour problems. The working party have expressed an interest in the problem facing this area and have asked for certain information. When the working party eventually reports, a picture of various processes which are likely



to cause a nuisance should be built up, necessary remedial action or preventative action can then be taken to prevent such odour nuisances occurring. Obviously if adequate measures can be taken to prevent a nuisance occurring in the first instance, this will be of great advantage to the Public Health Inspectorate, rather than having to deal with a plant once it has been installed, although it may well conform to existing Building Regulations and Planning requirements of the local authority.

### Noise

Today people are becoming increasingly aware of noise pollution, this is reflected in the number of complaints being received within this Department. Good planning and consideration for one's neighbours can do much to prevent noise.

Probably the most annoying form of noise in the U.K. is vehicle noise, which unfortunately is not the responsibility of local authorities. Indeed in a recent survey of the proposed improvement area in which there is a one way traffic system in operation, practically 100% of the residents complained of the noise and fumes from the traffic.

It would appear therefore of paramount importance to either

- a) Try and reduce noise produced from vehicles, or
- b) Restrict traffic using roads situated in close proximity to domestic dwellings, or
- c) Possibly a combination of a) and b)

Noise can often be avoided by a little forethought, if industrialists and others who are likely to cause a noise, sought the advice of this Department before installing noisy plant, they may well save themselves a great deal of inconvenience and possible expenditure in the long term, by having to carry out expensive modifications to plant afterwards.

Recently the Noise Advisory Council reported on the need to tighten up the existing law. It is suggested that zones be prescribed in which it would be an offence to increase noise above the present measured levels of noise within a neighbourhood. This would help to safeguard predominantly residential areas from the insidious growth of noise.



SECTION VI - PEST CONTROL

VIIa - Rats and Mice

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 places an obligation on any occupier of land and premises to notify the Local Authority of any rodent infestation and to destroy it.

A pest control service is provided by this Council and is undertaken as a public health function by trained staff. Householders are given a free service and business premises are charged a small fee. Contracts are entered into either for individual treatments of an infestation or, on an annual basis for periodic inspections and treatments. The annual contract offers a more efficient service and enables the Rodent Operative to carry out treatments before the rodent population becomes a public health nuisance, as well as a financial liability to the occupier of the premises concerned. The number of infestations by rats and mice during 1971 was similar to 1970. Of serious consequence is the fact that up to 75% of rat infestations and 42% of mice infestations were not notified. It is only by regular inspection and checking of premises that these infestations come to light. One wonders why certain members of the public, in this day and age, view such infestations as a normal everyday part of life, bearing in mind the disease risk involved.

Efficient treatment of rats with Warfarin and of mice by Alphachloralose achieves effective results; unfortunately one often finds that people have been trying to eradicate an infestation by misuse of the poison or are using a poison to which the pests are resistant; in this area for example one finds mice are resistant to Warfarin. This type of misuse of poisons by untrained persons is tending to build up resistance in rodents, and therefore it is important that people notify the Department immediately they become aware of an infestation.

(Continued overleaf)



The following table shows the number of premises inspected and found to be infested.

	<u>T Y P E   O F   P R O P E R T Y</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1) No. of properties in District	5,344	140
2) a) Total number of properties (Including nearby premises) inspected following notification	291	10
b) Number found to be infested		
i) Rats	40	3
ii) Mice	64	2
3) a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	2,681	60
b) Number infested by		
i) Rats	108	16
ii) Mice	44	4

#### Vlb - Pigeons

The pigeon continues to be a nuisance causing damage to buildings and crops. Ferral pigeons have continued to increase although some trapping was carried out by the Department during the year.

#### Wasps

During the summer and autumn 65 complaints were received and dealt with. Although control of these pests are the responsibility of householders, a free service is operated by this Department.

#### Verminous premises

Fumigation and spraying treatment was carried out in relation to one bed-bug infestation and 4 flea infestations. Flea infestations are usually either dog or cat fleas, rather than human fleas.

SECTION VII - SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

VIIa - Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act. 1963

This Act is designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in offices, shops, wholesale departments, warehouses, catering establishments and similar premises.

At the end of the year 24 Offices, 47 retail shops, 4 wholesale departments and warehouses, 12 catering establishments and canteens were registered.

The total number of employed persons were 160 males and 320 females. 62 inspections were carried out during the year as a result of which 10 informal notices were served.

Analysis of Contravention

Cleanliness	8	Premises not registered	2
Temperature	5	Defective floors	4
Lighting	1	Absence of first aid	5
Ventilation	3	Seating facilities	-
Sanitary Conveniences	-	Abstracts of Act	5
Washing facilities	3	Miscellaneous	7

VIIb - Factories Act 1961

Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring satisfactory conditions in relation to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors and sanitary conveniences in respect of non-mechanical factories and in respect of sanitary conveniences where mechanical power is used. There are 83 factories and 2 slaughterhouses on the factory register. 30 inspections were made resulting in 6 informal notices being served.



Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the  
Factories Act 1961

- 1) Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health  
 (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	-	-	-
11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	24	6	-
111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	Nil	-	-	-
Total	83	24	6	-

## 2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
Insufficient Unsuitable or Defective	6	4	-	1	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	4	-	1	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork - (Sections 133 and 134)

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel Making etc.	3	-	-	-	-	-
No other outwork is carried on in the district	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	-	-	-	-	-

VIIc - Agriculture, Safety Health and Welfare Provisions Act

Local Authorities are responsible for administering the provisions of the above Act in relation to the provision of adequate sanitary accommodation for persons working in these premises.

During the year 38 inspections were made of premises and informal notices served in two instances.

SECTION VIII - ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

This Act is designed to ensure satisfactory conditions for cats and dogs and to prevent as far as possible, any spread of infection. All premises in which such animals are boarded are required to be licenced annually. During the year 7 premises were licenced and 15 inspections were made, resulting in 7 informal notices being served.

Pet Animals Act 1951

Pet Shops are required to be licenced under the provisions of the above Act. The Act is designed to ensure that animals are kept under humane conditions. To regulate the age of animals sold and also to prevent spread of infection. One such shop is registered within the district.

Disease of Animals, Waste Foods Order 1957

Premises where plant and equipment are used for boiling waste food intended for animal feed can provide a link in the spread of animal disease. Premises are required to be licenced annually, providing that such plant operates satisfactorily. Two premises were licenced during the year.



## SECTION IX - SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The major part of the sewage in the Urban District is conveyed by pumping and gravity through a sewerage system, terminating at the Greater London Council pumping station at Brooker Road, from whence it is pumped out of the district to Deephams Sewage Disposal Works.

The scheme for laying a new 375 mm soil sewer to replace the existing sewer at Lea Road has now been completed.

During the year a scheme to sewer the High Beech area was commenced. Phase I involving sewerage Manor Road to Wellington Hill was nearly completed. The second phase to sewer the Mott Street area is nearing completion and it is hoped to complete a third phase of sewerage Lippetts Hill, which will include providing a pumping station and also possibly enlarging existing pumps at the Royal Oak Pumping Station during 1972.

### Public Conveniences

Public conveniences are provided at the Kings Oak, High Beech; Larsens Recreation Ground in Farmhill Road, and in the Greenyard adjacent to the Town Hall. No new conveniences have been built during the year but one is planned for the Upshire area for 1972.

Considerable damage occurs to these conveniences due to vandalism. If the public were to report persons who they observe causing damage to these facilities provided for their use, the service would obviously improve.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The pilot plastic sack refuse disposal scheme has now been extended to cover some 1600 properties and as from April 1972 all domestic properties within the district will be on plastic sack collection.

The disposal of refuse to the G.L.C. incinerator at Edmonton has proved very satisfactory and is to continue for 1972.

SECTION X - MISCELLANEOUS

Xa) Petroleum Consolidation Provisions Act 1926-33

The Petroleum Regulations Acts 1928 and 1936 give power to the Local Authority to ensure the safety of the general public from hazards in connection with petroleum. 45 visits were made to petroleum installations and advice given on methods of construction and installation, the rendering safe of dis-used storage tanks and the delivery handling and sale of petroleum. Testing of all alterations and new installations was carried out and in all cases the results were satisfactory. Although the Home Office give guidance to the Local Authority the ultimate responsibility for establishing conditions in respect of petroleum installations, and their enforcements, lies with this Council. The conditions recently introduced are having the desired effect resulting in safer conditions and the non-licencing of installations which fail to reach the desired standard. The number of licences issued during the year rose from 27 to 28.

Xb) Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964

It is the duty of the Local Authority to maintain a register of persons carrying on the business of Scrap Metal Dealers. There are now three dealers registered in the district who are required to maintain records of dealings.





